



TOWN OF EAST LONGMEADOW
60 CENTER SQUARE
EAST LONGMEADOW, MA 01028

TOWN COUNCIL

(413) 525-5400 ext. 1001

Michael J. Kane, President,
Ralph E. Page Vice President
Kathleen G. Hill, Thomas O'Connor
Connor J. O'Shea, Marilyn M. Richards

Approved 11-9-2021

MINUTES
Special Town Council Meeting
October 12, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.
East Longmeadow, Massachusetts 01028

Present: President Michael Kane, Vice President Ralph Page, Thomas O'Connor, Connor O'Shea, Marilyn Richards, and Kathleen Hill.

Council President Kane opened the meeting at 5:30 p.m. followed by a Moment of Silence. The meeting was conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020. Announcements were made in accordance with Mass General Law, and it was noted that the meeting was being audio taped as well as in a virtual remote format.

President Kane noted that all votes taken would be roll call votes.

Candidates for Town Council Vacancy:

President Kane stated that there were three questions submitted to the candidates.

- A. Terri Leone – Terri Leone thanked the Council and Town Manager Mary McNally for all their hard work on behalf of the town. Ms. Leone stated she has been a part of the community since 1996.

Regarding the first question Ms. Leone commented that her background is lengthy with employment. Ms. Leone worked 20 years with the Center for Human Development in progressive leadership roles managing people and processes and innovating ways to administer community support and care, and relevant topics to today's needs. She spent the next 10 years with Lego Group and held a number of positions there both increasing in responsibility and in people leadership. She helped manage over 350 people's schedules in payroll and also digitization of their record-keeping. Ms. Leone then worked at Dixon Ticonderoga Company where she was a project manager, and the experience gained there that she feels is relevant for the Town Council is a lot of codification experience. She worked on ISO certifications and management quality

certifications and is currently part of the Company called Cloud5 Cloud Communications Company as a contract analyst.

The second question was what she could bring to the Town Council. Ms. Leone stated that her codification experience would be a definite one that would relate to bylaws and the organization. Ms. Leone read the Master Plan and participated in the visioning session, which was phenomenal and thinks it is one of the best things she has seen come about in the town and looks forward to seeing it executed. Ms. Leone has had ethics training that is extensive through the Lego Group, Dixon Ticonderoga Company and Cloud5. Therefore, her last three areas were in business ethics. Before that when she was with Center for Human Development they had major training courses, all to do with conflict of interest and confidentiality, which she engaged in. Ms. Leone stated that she has people leadership skills that have been increasing since the beginning of her career and it is something that she loves and thinks in a Town Council setting it is important to be collaborative but also focused on getting things done. So bringing in the opinions and listening to the citizens is number one, but then being able to actually get some productivity out of it and she looks forward to that.

In response to the final question, what do we see as three things that the Town Council needs to be focused on for 2022 and beyond; Ms. Leone stated that she has read Mary McNally's excellent Town Reports and was able to agree with the issues that she felt were brought forward. One is operational efficiencies for town employees and being able to address the outdated record keeping and space storage. Ms. Leone believes these things are critical to how we operate. Secondly, she would need to brush up on where we stand with emergency preparedness. Ms. Leone is not sure what has transpired up until now but she would assume that would be the number one concern, making sure that anything we need for resourcing or looking forward we are planning that. The Master Plan looks like there are many resources mentioned but does the budget align with those resources. Ms. Leone would say that helping drive the Master Plan on all counts would be a priority for next year, laying out a timeline and hitting one or two top objectives off the Master Plan.

Ms. Leone thanked the Council for considering her.

President Kane asked if Ms. Leone would throw her name in the ring for the spring election for a three-year term.

Ms. Leone stated that she would and the reason she wanted to be considered tonight for the vacancy was so that she could get her foot in the door and look at this as becoming a long-term position to contribute to the community. Ms. Leone stated she really values her time contributing and loves volunteering in the town and has been a volunteer since 2012 with Total Adaptive Fitness.

President Kane commented that they are very pleased to have people come forward and want to take the time and dedication to serve the town and thanked Ms. Leone.

- B. Donald J. Anderson- Don Anderson stated he would be honored if he were to be selected to fill the remainder of the term. Mr. Anderson gave a little bit of his background. Mr. Anderson has been a Real Estate Attorney for 37 years and moved to East Longmeadow in 1987, and he ran for office in 1988. Mr. Anderson served on the Planning Board for five elections, started the Cruise Store 30 years ago, which he co-owns with his wife. He raised two children here, was elected to the Town Council for two consecutive terms including the original Town Council, and his last term just expired at the end of June.

Mr. Anderson stated the reason he would like to come back is that with all that is happening in our town it is very important to have continuity and experience. Mr. Anderson stated his philosophy is to build bridges not walls and would like to think that his experience to finish this term would be helpful.

Mr. Anderson stated that he has no intention of running in June. Mr. Anderson's ideas moving forward are to promote policies that make East Longmeadow a premier community to raise your children in and have them go to school here. Also to start and continue businesses here.

- C. Samuel Stoughton – Mr. Stoughton gave some background and work experience. Mr. Stoughton is a pediatric sonographer. Mr. Stoughton has been in healthcare for 30 years and has a Master's Degree in Healthcare administration. Mr. Stoughton has three children in the East Longmeadow school system; he has been in East Longmeadow for around 12 years.

Mr. Stoughton stated he would like to work with this Council because he believes they are a good group, he likes the town and the people, believes he can help, and is not afraid of a little bit of conflict.

As far as the issues looking ahead Mr. Stoughton thinks that maintaining the services here in town, continued commitment to high quality education, fiscal responsibilities for the taxpayers and the increase in public safety.

Councilor Page asked Mr. Stoughton if he would be interested in running for the position in the June election. Mr. Stoughton stated he would be very interested.

Councilor Richards commented that there is only one slot open, while it is an important slot, there are so many important positions here within our community that are not on the table this evening. Councilor Richards asked the candidates; if we choose someone other than yourself would you be interested in reaching out to the Town Manager to see what other slots are available. Councilor Richards believes the community looks to individuals who have invested themselves and certainly all of you have in different ways she would hate to lose the talent that we have here tonight. Councilor Richards' hope is that whether or not you are selected that you will consider running in the spring or consider serving on another Board or Committee.

Councilor Richards thanked all the candidates for submitting a letter of interest and showing that they care about this town.

For information purposes, Councilor Hill commented that the local election is always in June and the whole process usually starts in February when nomination papers become available.

*Councilor Page made a motion to nominate Don Anderson, to fill the vacancy on the Town Council. Councilor Page feels as someone who has already been on the Council Don can step right in. There were no other nominations. **Roll Call Vote- Councilor Hill – Yes, Councilor Richards- Yes, President Kane- Yes, Councilor Page –Yes, Councilor O'Shea – Yes and Councilor O'Connor- Yes.***

*President Kane made a motion to adjourn the Special Town Council Meeting. Councilor O'Shea seconded the motion. **Roll Call Vote- Councilor Hill – Yes, Councilor Richards- Yes, President Kane- Yes, Councilor Page –Yes, Councilor O'Shea – Yes and Councilor O'Connor- Yes.***

October 12, 2021

The Special Town Council Meeting was adjourned at 5:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Sullivan

Assistant Town Clerk

Documents: Agenda and candidates letters of interest.